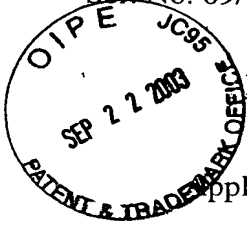


Ser. No. 09/660,381

#14/D  
Attorney Docket No. 90316  
10/8/03  
lv



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ernst F. Schroder  
Serial No. : 09/660,381  
Filed : September 12, 2000  
For : Voice Control System with a Microphone Array  
Examiner : Vernal U. Brown  
Art Unit : 2635

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**RECEIVED**

SEP 25 2003

Technology Center 2600

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination. This amendment responds to the Final Office Action dated April 24, 2003 for which a shortened statutory period of three months ending July 24, 2003 was set in which to respond and for which, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a), a request for two month extension of time ending September 24, 2003 has been requested. The following amendments and comments are hereby submitted and reconsideration of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

The Applicants submit that in view of the Request for Two-month Extension of time submitted with the Request for Continued Examination, authorization to charge Deposit Account 07-0832 and the attached Certificate of Mailing, this response is timely.